



# MONTANA'S BEST BEGINNINGS EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM

*For children 0-8*

**GOAL: to improve long term school readiness outcomes for all children and families in Montana**

**Ready Families + Ready Communities + Ready Services + Ready Schools = Children Ready for School**

<b>Best Beginnings Guiding Principles</b>	All children and families... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deserve to have quality early childhood experiences</li> <li>• Can benefit from education and support because skill and ability development is ongoing.</li> <li>• Need diverse and inclusive choices for services</li> <li>• Need affordable, accessible and appropriate health care</li> <li>• Can benefit from economic self sufficiency, economic development and workforce training</li> <li>• Can benefit from public/private partnerships</li> <li>• Deserve to live in communities that provide supportive environments</li> </ul>			
<b>System Objectives</b>  Taken from ECCS and (Head Start Collaboration)	<b>Children have access to high quality Early Childhood Programs – (education, child care, disabilities)</b>	<b>Families with young children are supported in their community – (welfare, family literacy, homeless, community service).</b>	<b>Children have access to a medical home and health insurance –(health)</b>	<b>Social, emotional, and mental health needs of young children and families are supported – (Mental health, family supports, education/child care).</b>
<b>System Components</b>  Activities, projects and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Learning Guidelines</li> <li>• Quality Rating Improvement Systems</li> <li>• Professional Development</li> <li>• Early Childhood Comprehensive Consultation</li> <li>• Transitions into school</li> <li>• Full time Kindergarten</li> <li>• Economic Impact Study</li> <li>• EC professional organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/Teacher Partnerships</li> <li>• Parent Ed and Leadership</li> <li>• School Readiness Teams</li> <li>• Family Resource Centers</li> <li>• Business Support</li> <li>• Family friendly work policies</li> <li>• Church, tribal, cultural community services</li> <li>• Home Visitation</li> <li>• Early Childhood Comprehensive Consultation</li> <li>• PREVENT Initiative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach in Rural Communities</li> <li>• Early Childhood Comprehensive Consultation</li> <li>• Insurance for all Children</li> <li>• Community Health Centers</li> <li>• Ongoing pre and post natal care</li> <li>• Universal Developmental Screenings</li> <li>• Comprehensive, preventive health care - vision, hearing, and oral health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Comprehensive Consultation</li> <li>• Professional Development</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Systems of Care</li> <li>• Early Identification and Intervention</li> <li>• Infant/Toddler Mental Health Services</li> <li>• PREVENT initiative</li> </ul>
<b>Cross-System Essential Elements</b>	<b>Inclusive Service Delivery • Cultural Competency • Access • Affordability • Quality • Compensation • Consumer Education</b>			
<b>Comprehensive System Essential Foundation Elements</b>	<b>Partnerships • Investments/Funding • Leadership • Public Engagement • Accountability • Public Policy</b>			

For more information: [www.childcare.mt.gov](http://www.childcare.mt.gov) or contact: Jamie Palagi, Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief, [jpalagi@mt.gov](mailto:jpalagi@mt.gov), 444-1828

January 2009

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August 6, 2008